

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/610,278

Examiner

Daniel J. Ryman

Applicant(s)

CALLON ET AL.

Art Unit

2665

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to RCE filed 6/30/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10-22, and 24-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Donald Boys on 19 October 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. A method of transferring data on a network, said network including a plurality of nodes connected by a plurality of links, at least one node being connected to more than one link over which the data can be transferred out of the at least one node, the method comprising: providing the data with an identifying portion which identifies a source node and a destination node for the data; associating the at least one node with a node identifying value to distinguish the at least one node from other nodes on the network; and using the identifying portion of the data and the node identifying value, ~~generating~~ calculating a link selection value which identifies one of the more than one links connected to the at least one node to transfer the data out of the at least one node, wherein the link selection value is calculated by combining the identifying portion of the data and the node identifying value through a logical operation.

Claim 7. The method of claim 4 wherein the identifying portion of the data includes a protocol ~~portion~~ field of the header.

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Claim 9. (canceled).

Claim 10. The method of claim [9] 1 wherein the logical operation comprises a hash operation.

Claim 13. The method of claim 10 wherein the identifying portion of the data includes a protocol ~~portion~~ field of the header.

Claim 15. An apparatus for transferring data on a network, said network including a plurality of nodes connected by a plurality of links, at least one node being connected to a plurality of links over which the data can be transferred out of the at least one node, the data being provided with an identifying portion which identifies a source node and a destination node for the data, and the at least one node being associated with a node identifying value to distinguish the at least one node from other nodes on the network, the apparatus comprising: an output interface over which the data can be forwarded to one of the plurality of links; and a processing device for ~~generating~~ calculating a link selection value using the identifying portion of the data and the node identifying value, said ~~node~~ link selection value identifying one of the plurality of links connected to the at least one node to transfer the data out of the at least one node, wherein the link selection value is calculated by combining the identifying portion of the data and the node identifying value through a logical operation.

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Claim 21. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the identifying portion of the data used by the processing device to generate the link selection value includes a protocol-~~portion~~ field of the header.

Claim 23. (canceled).

Claim 24. The apparatus of claim [23] 15 wherein the logical operation performed by the processing device includes a hash operation.

Claim 27. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the identifying portion of the data used by the processing device to generate the link selection value includes a protocol-~~portion~~ field of the header.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest using the node identifying value in addition to the identifying portion of the data in order to calculate a link selection value.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

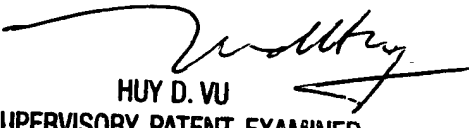
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Ryman whose telephone number is (571)272-3152. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:00-4:30 with every other Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571)272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DJR
Daniel J. Ryman
Examiner
Art Unit 2665


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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600